REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-62 are pending in the application with claims 16-30 and 44-58 being withdrawn. Claims 1, 3, 7, 13, 31, 33, 37 and 43 are amended herein. Claims 59 and 50 are newly added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 31 can be found in originally pending claim 7 and page 78, line 18 through page 81, line 10 of the specification. Support for new claims 59 and 60 can be found at least in originally pending claims 1 and 31. Support for new claims 61 and 62 may be found in originally filed claim 1 and at least page 80, lines 18-25, of the specification. Claims 3, 7, 33 and 37 have merely been amended to depend from new claim 59 (claims 3 and 7) or new claim 60 (claims 33 and 37). Claims 13 and 43 have been amended to correct a readily identifiable typographical error. Support for the amendments to claim 13 and 43 can also be found in the specification at page 101, lines 2 to 9. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. As such, entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C.§102(b)

Claims 1-15 and 31-42 have been rejected as being anticipated by Yoshida (US '610). Yoshida (US '610) is asserted to teach a silver halide color photographic light-sensitive material, and corresponding method, as recited in the instant claims with a component of formula (II).

Claims 1 and 31 have been amended herein to recite, "wherein the rinsing process uses a tank structurally partitioned into a plurality of rooms with blade-form members for passing the photographic material cut into sheets through rinse solutions in a horizontal direction". New claims 61 and 62 alternatively recite that the "the rinsing process is performed without conveyance of the photographic material through the air".

Yoshida (US '610) fails to teach or suggest the present invention having the above recited features. Yoshida (US '610) discloses a development process using a Rocky S (PP728) processor (column 42, lines 20-30). This processor uses a U-shaped path, which conveys light-sensitive materials through rinse tanks in manner such that the light sensitive materials are first immersed from the top (i.e., from the air) of the first rinse tank, and then taken out of the tank

(i.e, exposed to the air) and then further immersed in a subsequent tank and then taken out. This treatment is then repeated in Yoshida (US '610). Thus, the photographic material in Yoshida (US '610) has multiple exposures to the air during the development phase.

The development process used in Yoshida (US '610) is completely different than that utilized by the present invention wherein a processor equipped with blade-form members (see Fig. 1 and page 78, line 23 to page 80, line 17 of the specification, note in particular the submerged squeegee section 24), which prevent the lights-sensitive material from being exposed to air. This feature is recited in amended claims 1 and 31 and dependent claims thereon. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by the disclosure of Yoshida (US '610) and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§102(e)

Claims 1-15 and 31-43 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ohshima (US '962) or Ohshima (US '334). Applicants note that both of these references contain the same disclosure. As such, the following comments apply equally to both references and applicants traverse the rejections over both of the Ohshima references (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Ohshima").

Ohshima is asserted to teach a silver halide color photographic light-sensitive material, and corresponding method, as recited in the instant claims with a component of formula (II). However, the examples in Ohshima disclose the use of PP728AR processors (see, for example column 93, line 35 to column 94, line 15 of Ohshima '962 and PP1258AR processors (see, for example, column 107, line 63 to column 108, line 9 and column 123, lines 57-67 of Ohshima '334. Figure 2 of JP 11-327109, which is cited in Ohshima '962, exemplifies a PP728AR-type of processor. A copy of Figure 2 of JP 11-327109, with an English explanation of the relevant components of the processor of the Figure is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Both the PP728AR and PP1258AR processors employ a U-shaped path. Ohshima only discloses processors having U-shaped paths (see, for example, column 10, lines 34-44 of Ohshima '334). There is no disclosure in Ohshima of the rinse processing as recited in the present claims, i.e. there is no disclosure in Ohshima of "the rinsing process uses a tank structurally partitioned into a plurality

of rooms with blade-form members for passing the photographic material cut into sheets through rinse solutions in a horizontal direction" or that the "the rinsing process is performed without conveyance of the photographic material through the air". As such, the instant invention is not anticipated by Ohshima and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD Reg. No. 40,069 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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Enclosure: Exhibit A

Exhibit A

A brief explanation of Fig. 2 shown in JP-A-11-327109

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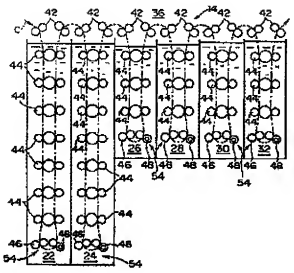

Explanation of numeral references

14 Processor unit
22 Developer tank
24 Bleach-fix tank
26 1st washing tank (1st rinse tank)
28 2nd washing tank (2nd rinse tank)
30 3rd washing tank (3rd rinse tank)
32 4th washing tank (4th rinse tank)
36 Crossover section
42 Transport roller
44 Transport roller
46 Inlet-side transport roller
48 Outlet-side transport roller
54 Turn section
C Photographic paper